

LITERATURE CITED

1. HOFFMAN, C. E. Morphology of the immature stages of some northern Michigan Donaciini (Chrysomelidæ; Coleoptera). Papers Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, 25: 243-290. 1939.
2. JOHANNSEN, O. A. Aquatic Diptera. Part II. Orthorrhapha-Brachycera and Cyclorrhapha. Cornell Univ. Agric. Exp. Sta., Memoir 177. 1935.
3. JUDD, W. W. Insects collected in the Dundas Marsh, Hamilton, Ontario, 1946-47, with observations on their periods of emergence. Canadian Entomologist, 81: 1-10. 1949.

BOOK NOTICE

The Life of William T. Davis. By Mabel Abbott. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y. 1949. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6$ inches. xv + 321 p. 26 illus. \$3.50.

This is a book to be read, rather than written about. Following an appreciative introduction by Edwin Way Teale, Miss Abbott, in 20 chapters, presents a sincere, full length portrait of William T. Davis. Most entomologists are unfortunate in their biographers, if they have any at all and only rarely is the human side of the subject presented. But this is not true of Miss Abbott's book which begins with the background and boyhood of Mr. Davis and continues through his long life. Included therein are chapters on his youthful reading habits, his numerous friendships and correspondents, his helpfulness to many persons, his continuous interest in cicadas and the natural history of Staten Island, his travels, his financial worries, his diet, of which he had to be careful, and his long active interest in the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, and other cultural bodies of the Island.

In her account Miss Abbott has included many extracts from Mr. Davis' "Natural History Notes" a manuscript record, which he kept for 56 years, of his observations, thoughts, and bits of reflections, all indicating his philosophy and attitude toward life. Although Mr. Davis, a lifelong resident of Staten Island, was

an authority on the Cicadidæ and a student of the fauna and flora of the Island, and of its history, his scientific and historical contributions are not unduly stressed. Instead there emerges a faithful portrait of Mr. Davis himself, his mild disposition, his quiet humor, his unfailing kindness, his long and fast companionships, his abounding and tireless interest in natural history, his pleasure in the behavior of creatures of the field and woods, and in little happenings which most of us fail to notice, his appreciation of warm sunshine, the song of a chickadee, and a crow he saw from a ferryboat. Mr. Davis was continually aware of the ceaseless and varied animal and plant life that went on all about him, from which he took much satisfaction and which filled his life.

This is a biography of Mr. Davis as he lived, thought and worked, a gentle, all-around naturalist, kindly disposed toward everything, except perhaps the despoilation of his beloved Island by so-called improvements. Miss Abbott has reproduced the quiet flow of his life, interrupted at times by sadness and worries, but continuing as before bright and unruffled with no deviation from his self-appointed tasks. Mr. Davis was fortunate in his biographer. Excellent taste is evident in the format of this biography which includes a list of Mr. Davis' writings and an index.—H. B. W.

POISONOUS PASTE

In the "South Carolina Gazette" of September 11, 1762, Richard Bird, upholsterer from London informed the ladies and gentlemen of Charles-Town that he hung paper "with a paste that has a peculiar quality of destroying all vermin in walls." About the same time John Webster in Philadelphia another upholsterer from London advertised in the "Pennsylvania Journal," August 20, 1767 that he sold Webster's Liquor "for entirely destroying that offensive and destructive vermin called Buggs."—H. B. W.